FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 MAY 1987

Inter-Arab Affairs

Moroccan-Algerian Summit — In a joint communique issued at the end of their 4 May summit meeting on the Algerian-moroccan border, King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid agreed to continue contacts between Morocco and Algeria with the aim of solving existing problems. The communique, which was carried by SPA, also expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the "noble efforts" of Saudi King Fahd, who arranged and attended the meeting. At the end of the meeting, which took place in an Algerian agricultural village, King Fahd accompanied King Hassan back to Morocco, SPA reported, noting that Fahd will return to Riyadh 5 May at the end of a "historic" tour in which his efforts to make progress toward Arab unity were "crowned with success."

A related report by Algiers radio confirmed that the Moroccan-Algerian talks focused on the conflict in the Western Sahara. The summit was a fresh opportunity for Bendjedid to express Algeria's well-known attitude on this issue, APS subsequently noted, adding that Algeria has no intention of negotiating on behalf of others as it respects the right of the Saharan people to negotiate on their own behalf.

Polisario's chief representative in Europe told Paris radio he is "skeptical" about the outcome of the meeting and he issued a communique accusing Morocco of seeking to resolve the Western Sahara conflict through military force, according to KUNA.

Alleged Syrian-Iraqi Meeting — An Israeli security source cited by Jerusalem radio "confirmed" that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held talks in Jordan last week, adding that this is why King Husayn canceled a planned visit to Egypt. On the other hand, the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad linked the cancellation of Husayn's talks in Egypt* with the question of relations with the PLO, WAM reported. The paper said the king decided to postpone his talks with President Husni Mubarak after receiving telephone calls from Saddam Husayn, who is working to restore the PLO's relations with Jordan and Egypt.

While Syrian and Iraqi media have not been observed to comment on the reported meeting between Al-Asad and Saddam Husayn, a Damascus radio commentary said that "increasing international pressure" to convene an international conference makes it necessary for the Arabs to "review the state of inter-Arab relations" and engage in "close cooperation" to liberate occupied Arab territory. Libya's JANA commented on the reported Iraqi-Syrian summit, stating that Libya will be "pleased" if the talks did indeed take place "because we dream of the reconstruction of the northern front after the southern front has collapsed through Egypt's recognition of the Zionist enemy." The agency added that unity between Syria and Iraq is natural and necessary.

Lebanon

Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced his resignation in a speech broadcast by Beirut radio, asserting that he had "no alternative" in a situation where "everything that is happening is harmful to the interests of the Lebanese people and Lebanon in general." Karami linked his resignation with the cabinet's inability to agree on political and economic measures, and he deplored "the frenzied posturing, oneupmanship, and the slips of the tongue" by the different cabinet ministers. He gave further explanations for his resignation in an *Al-Safir* report cited by Voice of Lebanon radio, denouncing "capricious decrees and individual decisions" made by ministers and deploring the "shameful" remarks expressed by PSP leader Walid Junblatt in a 1 May speech.

The Voice of Lebanon also broadcast remarks on the subject by former President Camille Sham'un, who said Karami has chosen to "run away" and shirk his responsibilities rather than adopt the "radical and harsh" measures needed to save Lebanon from the social, economic, and financial dangers facing it. President Amin al-Jumayyil subsequently announced his intention to deal with the cabinet crisis in accordance with constitutional norms, the radio reported. Beirut radio noted that Syrian and Lebanese forces took strict security measures in the wake of Karami's resignation announcement.

Israel

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will present his international conference proposal at a special cabinet session 10 May, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that agreement on this date was reached during talks between Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

In contrast to Shamir, Peres told Jerusalem radio that Jordan's recent statement on the international conference issue represents "progress," pointing out that Jordan proposed inviting the PLO to a conference under conditions that are "rather similar" to U.S. conditions and include a call to renounce terrorism. Jordanian sources cited by *The Jerusalem Post* disclosed that Syria has indicated its willingness to go along with Jordan's conditions for an international conference, noting that Syria has been pushed to soften its stance because of a worsening economic situation.

PLO

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has decided to reopen the PLO office in Tripoli, according to a Palestinian source cited in a WAKH report on the Libyan leader's talks with Khalil al-Wazir, the PLO's deputy military commmander. A Tripoli television report on the meeting noted that Al-Wazir briefed Col al-Qadhdhafi on the results of the Algiers PNC and on the Palestinian situation.

As for the PLO's relations with Morocco, TAP cited Palestinian sources in Baghdad who stated that Saudi Arabia has succeeded in containing the political crisis between the two sides and disclosed that the PLO office in Rabat is functioning normally.

Libya

Cooperation Talks in Moscow — Foreign Liaison Secretary Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi arrived in Moscow for talks on further cooperation in the petroleum industry and other areas, Moscow radio reported.

Troops in Sudan — Libyan troops are still in the western Darfur region, according to an *Al-Ayyam* report cited by SUNA. The newspaper's source called for a "political decision" to resolve the problem of Libyan soldiers supporting the Chadian opposition from Sudan's territory.

Iran

"What befell the U.S. Marines in Beirut can happen to any party," a Tehran radio commentary warned, adding that the Islamic forces' experience in Lebanon has been "very successful." The commentary decried the U.S.-USSR "joint conspiracy" to prevent the fall of the Iraqi regime, especially Moscow's "continued insistence" on "open support" for Iraq, and cautioned the Soviet leadership to be more attentive to the "negative effects" its pro-Iraqi stand might have on Muslim public opinion.

Another commentary carried by the station reiterated that Iran "will inevitably retaliate" against the Kuwaiti Government's "hostilities" in providing facilities to Iraq. The station urged Kuwait to review its "maniacal policies" and cease its "unruly behavior" before Iran "loses its patience."

DRA

Babrak Karmal to USSR — Babrak Karmal, former PDPA general secretary, left for "medical treatment and rest" in the USSR 4 May on the advice of his physicians and by invitation, Kabul radio reported. Prior to his departure, he met with PDPA General Secretary Najibullah and other officials.

Talks With India — Najibullah and Indian Foreign Minister N.D. Tiwari held talks during which they praised the two countries' "sincere, historical, and friendly" relations, Kabul radio reported. According to Delhi radio, they discussed the possible impact of Pakistan's acquisition of new weaponry from the United States. An agreement to expand cooperation in a variety of fields was signed during Tiwari's visit.

Pakistan

A bomb blast in a Miram Shah mosque killed 7 worshippers and injured 11, *Kyodo* reported. Two people were also wounded by another explosion in a park, and a third bomb damaged the office of a refugee administrator.

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Babrak Karmal Leaves for USSR for 'Treatment'

LD041613 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Babrak Karmal, member of the PDPA Central Committee left for the USSR on 4 May at the invitation of and as instructed by doctors for medical treatment and rest. Before leaving Babrak Karmal met with Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, with members and candidate members of the Politburo, and with secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee.

Members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee, Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur; Comrade Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Comrade Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador extraordinary to the DRA; other officials, as well as members of Babrak Karmal's family, saw him off at Kabul international airport.

Further Reportage on Visit of India's Tiwari

Continues Talks With 'Abdol Wakil

LD042201 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The second round of official talks between Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, member of PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, and Narain Dutt Tiwari, minister of external affairs of the Republic of India, were resumed this morning in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interest. Reaffirming the aims and common positions of both countries, they agreed to take the necessary measures in connection with expanding and consolidating the mutually beneficial relations and cooperation between the DRA and the Republic of India.

The last round of the eighth session of the joint commission on technical, economic, and cultural cooperation between the DRA and the Republic of India, which was held this afternoon at the Gol Khanah Hall of the Council of Ministers, concluded with the final speeches of Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, DRA minister of foreign affairs, and His Excellency Narain Dutt Tiwari, minister of external affairs of the Republic of India.

The decisions of the work commissions of the joint commission on technical and economic cooperation were discussed at today's session, and necessary measures taken.

Meets With Najibullah

BK041609 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, had talks with the Afghan leader, Dr Najib, in Kabul today. The two leaders were closeted together for nearly 3 hours. Details of the talks were not immediately available, but our special correspondent, Harish Awasthi, understands that they centered around the disturbed situation in this part of the world. The two leaders are reported to have taken stock of the situation in view of Pakistan's acquisition of sophisticated arms, including AWACS from the United States. Our correspondent says Afghanistan's stand on Islamabad's aggressive military stand was made clear by the foreign minister, Mr 'Abdol Wakil, to Mr Tiwari last night.

Mr Tiwari today co-chaired the final session of the Indo-Afghan joint commission. Both sides signed an agreement to expand cooperation in a wide variety of fields including trade, public health, art, culture, and public works. Mr Tiwari returns home tomorrow.

Further on Najibullah Meeting

LD042129 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, received this afternoon His Excellency Narain Dutt Tiwari, foreign minister of the Republic of India, for a meeting at the PDPA Central Committee Headquarters.

In the course of the meeting Comrade Najib conversed in detail about the recent developments in the country — including implementation of the program of national reconciliation and its aims and gains; referred to the sincere, historical, and friendly Afghan-Indian relations; and stated that the Afghan-Indian friendship is a great legacy from our fathers and forefathers and that we are dutybound not only to safeguard this traditional, ancient, historical friendship, but to constantly make all possible efforts for the further growth and consolidation of the good and neighborly relations.

Referring with happiness to the notable victories which the people and government of India have achieved in all areas of political, economic, and social life and to the position of that country in the international sphere, he said that India today has been transformed into an important (?power) in the task of maintaining peace, (?security), and cooperation in the region and in the world. The pursuit of an active foreign policy by the Republic of India and its outstanding positive role within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement, as a founder member of the movement, and the support of that country for the cause of peace — among them the peace initiatives and proposals of the Soviet Union in confronting the (?world-devouring) plans of the reactionary and imperialist forces and the well-known Delhi declaration signed during the visit of Comrade M.S. Gorbachev to the Republic of India — constitute the most honest manifestations of the Republic of India in order to maintain peace and stability in the region and in the world.

During the meeting, Comrade Najib expressed the gratitude of the party, government, and people of Afghanistan for the support which has been officially announced by the government and people of the Republic of India for the polf national reconciliation, and for that country's efforts toward further growth and consolidation of the friendly relations and cooperation between the Republic of India and Afghanistan. He expressed his desire for the further expansion and consolidation of these relations and friendly cooperation.

In response, Narain Dutt Tiwari expressed appreciation for the support of the government and people of the DRA for the efforts of the government and people of the Republic of India. He expressed satisfaction with the existing friendly relations between the two countries in all spheres and stated that on the basis of the cornerstone of the historical and ancient friendship and the common points of view of the two countries concerning most regional and international questions, there is a broad foundation for the friendly relations and for cooperation between the two countries, as honest and founding members of the Nonaligned Movement, to be expanded more than ever before.

His Excellency Narain Dutt Tiwari praised the sincere efforts of the DRA, under the leadership of Comrade Najib, for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Afghanistan and for the maintenance of peace and stability in the country and in the region. On behalf of the government and people of the Republic of India, he once again expressed support for the policy of national reconciliation and stated that the policy of national reconciliation, as a powerful plan to neutralize the warmongering designs of the reactionary and imperialist forces, can help maintain peace and security in the country and in the region.

Narain Dutt Tiwari expressed confidence that based on ancient links and the historical and traditional friendship which exist between the two countries, the expansion and consolidation of friendship and further cooperation between the Republic of India and the DRA is the guarantor of the common interests of the peoples of both countries and therefore this friendship should decisively and (?step by step) continue on the path of its further growth and consolidation.

'Abdol Wakil Banquet Speech

LD041950 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 4 May 87

["Text of Speech Delivered by Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, Member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and Foreign Minister, at a Banquet Given in Honor of His Excellency Narain Dutt Tiwari, Indian Foreign Minister, at the Foreign Ministry Reception Hall" — *Bakhtar* headline]

[Excerpts] Kabul, 3 May *(Bakhtar)* — Your Excellency Narain Dutt Tiwari, foreign minister of India, and friends: I am pleased to welcome Your Excellency and your delegation on behalf of the DRA Government and people and on my own behalf. I hope you will enjoy your stay in our country. [passage omitted]

The people of Afghanistan have a special feeling toward the friendly people of India. We consider the Indian people our old and worthy friends. We have always been pleased with the friendly relations formed between Afghanistan and India over many decades. As you know, and we have declared this many times, in our foreign policy our relations with Indian have a special and prime place. At present and in the future too, various efforts to develop these relations will form the basis of our work. We can state proudly that the friendship protocol, signed in 1950, between both countries constitute a good legal basis. Today also, our relations are at a high level of mutual understanding and contacts and regular work between both countries' leaders can play a significant role in strengthening peace in the region, promoting Afghan-Indian cooperation and consolidating our relations in the future. We believe that relations with the Republic of Indian under the leadership of his excellency the prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, will further expand in the interest of the people of both countries.

Our countries are among the founders of the Nonaligned Movement and have played and are playing an active role in further consolidating the anti-imperialist stand of this movement. This movement has been transformed into an important factor in international politics. [passage omitted]

Your Excellency, friends: Our people celebrated the ninth anniversary of the national and democratic April Revolution recently, when the national reconciliation policy was implemented. From the very beginning of the April Revolution the people of our country were confronted by a dirty and imposed war. Certain circles are trying to create obstacles on the path of revolutionary transformation. To end this situation the leadership of our country resorted to a fresh initiative, that is the declaration of a national reconciliation policy. [passage omitted]

The national reconciliation policy is an underdeveloped process and the forces who are against peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan are trying to frustrate this process. Unfortunately, we must point out that recently Pakistan's regime has intensified its efforts alongside these forces. Islamabad is continuing and even intensifying various measures to bring military pressure to bear on Afghanistan. Pakistan is dispatching more armed opposition groups and vast amounts of weapons to the territory of Afghanistan. The territory of Afghanistan is constantly being subjected to fire by the units of Pakistan's armed forces. These attacks are being backed by the Stinger missiles and modern surface-to-air missiles. [passage indistinct]

We have no doubt that the United States has an interest in continuing the undeclared war against our country, even in expanding it. The aim of this policy, as a first step, is to prevent the establishment and consolidation of people's power in Afghanistan and to expand and strengthen the military presence of America in the region and [words indistinct] political propaganda from the situation.

Your Excellency, friends: We explicitly declare that tension in the region affects the international situation, which is becoming more tense and complex. We express our concern regarding the complexity of the international situation, which stems from the accumulation of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, and the military plans of the certain circles. We believe that all peace-loving forces in the world should concentrate their efforts on disarmament and the creation of a world free from the nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

Your Excellency, friends: The people of our country are following with great interest the efforts of the Indian people to develop and attain a high level of progress and social justice. The results in these spheres signal a tranquil and blossoming future for the Indian people.

We support the efforts of the Indian government toward the consolidation of national unity and territorial integrity in that

country. We are very pleased with the changes now taking place in the Republic of India. Our people warmly welcome the progress of India. We are sure that this friendly country, India, according to your envisioned plans, will become one of the progressive countries of the world with great economic-scientific power and great technical capacity, which will play an important part in the scientific, economic, and technical progress of the world.

Your Excellency, members of the Indian delegation: I think it is necessary to point out that we attach great value to the technical and economic assistance of friendly India for the implementation of our development aims. We have signs of this cooperation in our country's center, Kabul. I want to mention as an example the childrens hospital, which is named after the late Indira Gandhi. We can see that this hospital continues to develop and this reflects the expanding friendship between the two countries. Your assistance is very valuable particularly now when the second year of the first 5-year plan following the revolution is continuing. Similarly, we attach great value to the results of the eight session of the joint Afghan-Indian Commission, which is taking place simultaneously with our official talks. We hope to see fresh examples of this friendship in the future.

I want to assure you that the leadership [words indistinct] and the DRA under the leadership of Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, attaches special importance to the consolidation of Afghan-Indian friendship and has an interest in its expansion by all means.

Comrade Najib said in one of his messages to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi: The traditional friendship between us not only covers the interest of both peoples but also has a positive effect on ensuring and consolidating peace and security in the region, and in the world.

Your Excellency, friends: Finally, I want to express my belief in the fact that the supporters of peace will prevail over the forces of war. I wish for international peace, further consolidation of Afghan-Indian ties, advancement and progress of India, and Your Excellency's health and that of the other dear Indian guests.

Tiwari Banquet Speech

LD050829 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0419 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 4, *Bakhtar* — Between India and Afghanistan there has been close cooperation at all the meetings of the non-aligned countries and we are confident that in the future also this cooperation will continue in an active and well coordinated manner. This was said by Narayan Dutt Tiwari India's minister of external affairs in his speech delivered at a dinner hosted by 'Abdol Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs.

We regard, he pointed out, the policy of national reconciliation announced more than three months ago as positive steps.

We have throughout extended our wholehearted support for a peaceful political settlement of the issues that trouble this region so that its people can devote themselves to the urgent tasks of social and economic development. We have on many occasions expressed our opposition to all kinds of interference and intervention in Afghanistan and we are convinced that a sovereign, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan can make a major contribution to the establishment of a durable peace in our part of Asia.

It is with this in mind that we have frequently called for a negotiated political settlement with the problem which takes into account interest of all concerned. There can be no military solution to this problem and the initiative taken through the personal representative of the United Nations secretary general has been warmly welcomed by us. It is our hope that in the months to come further progress will be made through this initiative in achieving a peaceful political settlement.

Tiwari said further we know that during the first year of the 5-year plan Afghanistan has made good progress and that it is proposed to increase the rate of growth during the current second year of the plan. Our cooperation and contribution in this effort will be to the maximum extent that is within our means through a consolidation of the projects we have already taken up in areas like public health, small industry and culture.

Hosts Reception for 'Abdol Wakil

LD050818 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 4, *Bakhtar* — India's Minister of External Affairs, Narain Dutt Tiwari, hosted a reception given by him in honour of 'Abdol Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs of the DRA. Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA was also a guest at the reception.

Final Round of Talks

LD050821 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] [Words indistinct] (?Final) round of the eight sessions of Afghan-India Joint Commission of Economic, Technical and Cultural Cooperation ended here today. At today's session decisions have been made on what were adopted by the working commissions of the Joint Commission of Economic, Technical and Cultural Cooperation.

The session ended with speeches delivered by 'Abdol Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC, minister of foreign affairs of the DRA and Narain Dutt Tiwari, minister of external affairs of India.

Cooperation in Banking, Industries

BK050331 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] India and Afghanistan have decided to establish direct banking arrangements for closer cooperation between trading organizations in the two countries. Industrial collaboration will also be intensified. These decisions were taken at the 2-day

meeting of the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission which ended in Kabul yesterday.

The Afghan side showed interest in buying Maruti cars and jeeps and wanted India's assistance in building 10 more industrial sheds. India has already built 10 sheds in Afghanistan's industrial estate. An Indian trade fair will be held in Kabul next month.

The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, who led the Indian delegation for the joint commission meeting laid the foundation stone of a new building comprising 100 beds at the Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Care and Hospital built with Indian assistance.

IRNA Details Recent Mujahidin Operations in Provinces

LD041748 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Islamabad, May 4, IRNA — Twenty-five Soviet and Afghan soldiers were killed or wounded when Afghan Mujahidin raided outposts and positions of the joint Soviet-Kabul forces in Golbahar Governorate and also in the capital city of Kapisa Province on April 27. Two tanks and one military vehicle of the joint forces were also destroyed in the Mujahidin's operations which coincided with the eighth anniversary of a communist coup in Afghanistan. One Soviet officer and four soldiers were among those killed.

On April 27, Mujahidin also set ablaze one munitions dump and destroyed one tank and three armoured personnel carriers of the joint forces in Orgun Governorate, Paktia Province.

In another development, Mujahidin attacked a personnel carrier of the joint Soviet-Kabul troops in Samangan Province April 19, killing or wounded 10 soldiers. In retaliation for the attack, the joint forces shelled and bombed some villages in Samangan Province, destroying 600 houses and forcing 1,000 Afghan families to emigrate to other parts of the country.

Karachi Notes Mujahidin Attack on Ghazni Airport

BK050226 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan state the mujahidin made rocket attacks on Ghazni Airport recently and badly damaged military installations and a barracks. The reports also say the mujahidin killed many Soviet-Kabul soldiers in an attack near (Sharika) in Parvan Province.

Minister for Program Implementation Resigns

BK041253 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The minister for program implementation, Mr A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury, has resigned from the union cabinet. The president has accepted his resignation on the advice of the prime minister.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] communique, the prime minister will look after the program implementation portfolio.

Mr Sukh Ram will hold additional charge as minister of state. He is at present the minister of state for planning.

In a statement, Mr Ghani Khan Choudhury said his resignation followed the adverse remarks passed by the Public Accounts Committee against one of his decisions as the railway minister. The committee, in its 88th report, termed the licensing of railway land at Wadi Bandar near Bombay as an act of undue consideration shown by the minister.

Mr Choudhury contended that this was not so and the decision was taken in the interest of the railways.

He said he has resigned to uphold the democratic traditions and to show respect to perliament and its committee.

Former Punjab Prison Chief's Killers Arrested

BK050537 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The Punjab police have arrested a gang of eight terrorists responsible for the killing of the former I.G. [Inspector General] of prisons, Mr Katoch.

The gang is reported to be responsible for a number of murders and robberies in Jullundur, Hushiarpur, and Rupar Districts.

16 Terrorists Arrested by Police in Punjab 4 May

BK050320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] In Punjab, four persons including three terrorists were killed and a terrorist and a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier] were injured in three separate incidents last night. They took place in Amritsar and Gurdaspur Districts.

Meanwhile, police have arrested 16 terrorists in Rupar and Kapurthala Districts.

Editorial Stresses Need To Settle PRC Border Issue

BK030738 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 87 p 9

[Editorial: "By Talks Alone"]

[Text] The latest Chinese allegations about Indian violation of its border and air space near Arunachal Pradesh and their refutation by New Delhi have pulled the two sides a step away from mutual understanding. Beijing has dismissed as sheer rumour reports about a military build-up in Tibet, and an External Affairs Ministry spokesman has denied that Indian troops have carried out a large-scale military exercise to cause border tension in the north-east. The fact that China has only made "representations" about the border violations through diplomatic channels instead of lodging a formal protest or even submitting an aide-memoire suggests that Beijing does not consider these to be serious enough. If in spite of that there is a hardening of Chinese attitude it may be due to a continued misreading of India's intentions in granting Arunachal Pradesh full statehood. The massing of Chinese troops in Tibet and the harsh tone of the official spokesman in Beijing may also be conveying the message that India would risk serious consequences if it did anything to undo the Chinese occupation of the Sumdorong Chu valley when the snows melt in summer.

Whatever might have caused the stiffening of the Chinese attitude, the escalating tension has the dangerous potential of widening the communication gap between New Delhi and Beijing. This will be regrettable, because national leaders of the two countries have been consistently stressing the need for a negotiated settlement of the border dispute. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi recently reiterated in Calcutta his resolve for a peaceful solution of the boundary question and Mr Deng Xiaoping told the CPI-M general secretary, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, in Beijing earlier this month that the frontier issue should be settled on the basis of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation. The Chinese accusation of border violations by India, made barely a week after Defence Minister K. C. Pant's stop-over and dinner in Beijing on way to North Korea, is no doubt at odds with the positive impression that Mr Deng created when Mr Namboodiripad called on him. But the hope must still be expressed that China will show by action that it believes in resolving the boundary dispute through understanding and accommodation. Such action may come in the form of a Chinese announcement of a date for the eighth round of border talks due to be held this year in Beijing. At last year's talks in Beijing India proposed that the two countries should exchange coordinates of the line of control in Arunachal Pradesh. India also reminded the Chinese that the two sides had agreed at the fourth round of talks in 1984 that neither side would do anything to alter the status quo till a boundary settlement was reached. No positive response came from the Chinese. Maybe Beijing is averse to demarcating the line of control pending a settlement. It will be worthwhile for the two sides to pick up the idea again at the eighth round.

Yaqub Khan Notes Contacts With USSR on Afghan Issue

BK041223 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said Pakistan remains committed to securing an early political settlement of the Afghanistan problem through peaceful means. Participating in the National Assembly debate on the government's policies as outlined in the president's address to the joint sitting of parliament, he replied to the points raised by the members during their speeches regarding the foreign policy.

The foreign minister said Pakistan was in direct contact with the Soviet Union over the matter, while Geneva talks are continuing simultaneously to find a settlement of the issue. About other points, he touched on Pakistan's relations with its neighbors, the Muslim countries, China, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

'Reliable Kabul Sources' Quoted on Geneva Talks Delay

BK051248 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 5 May 87

[Excerpts] Islamabad, May 5 (AFP) — The U.N.-sponsored proximity talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan will not resume in Geneva this month as had been anticipated, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

When United Nations intermediary Diego Cordovez announced the adjournment of the talks in March, he said he believed they would resume here in May.

But the diplomats quoted reliable Kabul sources as saying that contrary to general expectations, the parleys aimed at reaching an acceptable time-table for the withdrawal of Soviet troops would not resume this month.

Meanwhile reliable sources quoted Afghan leader Najibullah as recently telling Kabul university students that the former king Zahir Shah might come to Afghanistan. The diplomats had no confirmation about the ex-monarch's visit, living in exile in Rome, who is mentioned more in the Afghan circles these days as an acceptable future government leader.

Afghan observers believed the failure of the current regime's reconciliation process could be one cause of the dilly dallying in the Geneva process. [passage omitted]

The diplomats gave no explanation for the delay in restarting the talks. But observers said the atmosphere of the talks had already been polluted when Afghan jets bombed several border villages housing Afghan refugees, causing a heavy death toll. [passage omitted]

On the military front, the diplomats reported heavy fighting in the eastern Nangarhar and southern Qandahar Provinces where the Soviets and Afghans suffered heavy losses. They confirmed earlier guerrilla reports that 50 Soviet troops were killed and 28 captured in two days of fighting in the Nazian sector of Nangarhar Province in April. They also quoted an Afghan informant as saying Soviet jets had bombed an Afghan army unit by mistake near Kabul in April, killing over 100 soldiers as well as destroying 11 military vehicles.

Bomb Blast at Mosque in Miran Shah Kills Seven

OW050529 Tokyo KYODO in English 0522 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Islamabad, May 5 *Kyodo* — A powerful bomb exploded at a mosque during an early morning prayer service in the northern Pakistani border town of Miran Shah on Monday, killing seven worshippers and injuring 11 others, according to reports from Peshawar.

The early morning blast was followed by another explosion hours later at the office of the administrator for Afghan refugees but no one was injured, the reports said. A third bomb which went off in a nearby village park the same morning also left two people injured, according to the reports.

Authorities say the town is vulnerable to terrorist attacks because of its proximity to Afghan refugee camps and guerrillas fighting the Kabul regime, both of which are based along the border with Afghanistan.

Afghan Jets Bomb 3 Villages; Casualties Noted

NC041850 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Islamabad, May 4 (AFP) — Two Pakistani children died and seven were critically wounded as Afghan jets bombed three villages near the Pakistani border town of Miran Shah Monday, correspondents in the area reported.

They said Afghan jets, numbering over a dozen, came in two sorties just before noon and penetrated deep inside Pakistani territory. The sources said the target of the operation appeared to have been the residence in Ghulam Khan of local Afghan refugee leader Mir Ghazzan. Air raids on a crowded bazaar in the same town last February left over 100 people dead.

The planes, believed to be Soviet MiGs, dropped several bombs in Ghulam Khan, Sher Khel and Meraki villages, where a number of Afghan refugee camps are located, correspondents said. They reported that the bombardment destroyed eight houses, including that of Mr. Ghazzan.

Sources in the area said Afghan planes earlier bombed areas across the Pakistani border where clashes were reportedly continuing between Moslem rebels and Afghan Government forces.

It was not clear if Pakistani aircraft were sent to chase the intruding planes. Official sources here said the Pakistani Air Force last week lost a military plane as it was chasing six Afghan jets in the same area. The lost plane was reported to have been a U.S.-made F-16, although it has not officially been identified.

Sources said the plane was hit by a missile while as it was intercepting intruders, but it was not clear from where the missile was fired. The Kabul government said its MiG jets shot down a Pakistani F-16 plane after it had violated Afghan air space.

SRI LANKA

India's Dixit Protests Charge of Aiding Tamils

BK041618 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, today lodged a verbal protest with the Sri Lankan Government over a news item which had charged that India is supplying arms to Tamil militants. Mr Dixit called on the foreign secretary, Mr Jayasinghe, in Colombo this morning and took particular objection as the story had appeared in a government-owned newspaper. He drew Mr Jayasinghe's attention to the recent constructive statements on the Sri Lankan issue made by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari. He said the anti-Indian statements by some members of the Sri Lankan Government are in contrast to this.

Spokesman Claims 'Adequate' Food Stocks in Jaffna

BK041251 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1135 GMT 4 May 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 4 *(Lanka Puwath)* — There are at least two months' stocks of rice and flour in the Food Department's warehouses in Jaffna, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told *Lanka Puwath*. He said that contrary to an Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesman's assertion that the people of Jaffna had been denied their basic day-to-day necessities, there were adequate stocks of food. This included 4,250 metric tons of rice and 3,781 metric tons of flour — enough for at least eight weeks requirement (?in) Jaffna. There were also adequate medical supplies.

Jaffna Hospital Closes; Tamils Fear More Attacks

BK050358 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Jaffna hospital in the Tamil-dominated area is being closed down. The 1000-bed hospital is the only one in the entire north and east of the country with the latest medical and teaching facilites. The hospital had been hit 8 times in the past year by shells causing damages and loss of lives.

The government owned *Daily News* said this morning that instructions have been issued to close it down by Friday. Tamil sources told our Colombo correspondent that this step will cause extreme inconvenience to the people of the area and expressed the apprehension that there would be massive air and ground attacks. The secretary of the government medical officers association, Dr Ratnapriya, told our correspondent that the association was not consulted about the closure.

Amnesty International has urged the Sri Lanakan Government to protect Tamils in its custody from attacks by Sinhalese prisoners. The appeal follows Sinhalese prisoners seeking revenge for the massacre of over 100 people, mostly Sinhalese, in a car bomb explosio in in Colombo last month.

Commentary Warns Kuwait on 'Maniacal Policies'
NC041141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0445 GMT 4 May 87

[Commentary from the "Developments on the Front" feature]

[Text] As promised yesterday, we will continue our assessment of the Kuwaiti Government's recent stand on seeking assistance from the hegemonist powers with their presence in the Persian Gulf. In today's program we will discuss the course of the Kuwaiti Government's acts against the Islamic Republic.

The chairman of the Kuwaiti parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee announced in an interview with *Al-Siyasah* on 22 December 1985 that Iraq's war against Iran was to have ended after a few months, thus confirming Kuwait's foreknowledge of the Ba'thist Party's aggression against the Islamic Republic. He continued by stating in the same interview: Only the ruling Iranian regime's decline will end the war; therefore, the war will continue as long as the present regime rules Iran.

What is the best approach to a small government that does not recognize its limitations and, by ignoring its potentials, utters unwise and dangerous slogans and shouts provocative slogans? What stand should be adopted toward such a government?

Of course, throughout the years of cooperation and coordination among some regional countries in the war against the Islamic Republic, the world has witnessed the extent of the Islamic Republic's restraint and indulgence vis-a-vis these hostile acts. The Iranian Government's stand, which observes the principles of peace and understanding and warns such small and obstinate governments of the consequences of their acts, is living proof of this reality. But until when and up to what point can this continue?

The truth is that the great volume of Kuwaiti economic-military assistance and political-propaganda support for the aggressive Ba'thist regime has now turned Kuwait into one of the main regional pillars of support for Iraq. In relation to this, the Kuwaiti shaykhdom is selling oil on Iraq's behalf; it is placing the Al-Warbah and Bubiyan Islands at the Ba'thist regime's disposal for military purposes; it is overtly forcing the Kuwaiti mass media to censor reports on the Islamic Republic's victories and to propagandize and propagate the stands of and remarks by the Saddamists; it is gradually turning the Kuwaiti ports into loading centers for the Baghdad government's military consignments; it is preparing Kuwait airport to fuel Ba'thist military aircraft; and it is even placing Kuwait's airspace at the disposal of Saddam's regime so that it can attack our economic centers more easily.

In light of such intensified acts, can one truly continue a policy of advice and warnings? As previously stated, the Islamic Republic has displayed a surprising amount of restraint and by heeding international norms and principles and by respecting goodneighborliness, it has had a completely friendly approach toward the Kuwaiti Government thus far. But obviously, if that government's hostilities continue, we will inevitably retaliate.

What sane mind can actually understand a small government confronting another government in such a way and for this government to continue its flexibility? What alert conscience can, in the face of Kuwait's continued maniacal policies, witness that country's blatant invitation to hegemonistic powers to be present in the Persian Gulf and not be enraged by that small government's lack of commitment and unruly behavior? Who can tolerate, for example, remarks by Shaykh Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister, who said Kuwait overtly supports Iraq and that it will never cease this support?

These acts and maniacal remarks by Kuwaiti officials have advanced so far that the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Ra'y Al-Amm* cited the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus who said: God forbid if the time comes when Kuwait will have to deploy its forces to defend its Iraqi borders.

But amid all this, can small Kuwait's stands actually have any impact whatsoever on the minds of people throughout the world or on the progress of the war? And do the Kuwaiti shaykhs themselves believe these remarks to be true? Also, if the Islamic Republic loses its patience and gives a suitable answer to such arbitrary acts, do the Kuwaiti officials believe they can withstand the outcome?

The answer to these questions can be found in a *Le Monde* article that said: Despite the facade of calm, the Kuwaiti Government does not admit that it is perplexed with fear.

[Begin Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati recording] We have told the Kuwaitis that we have nothing to do with you. We are your neighbors; we have been your neighbors for 1,000 years; and we want to continue to be your neighbors. What kind of childish attitude is this when you reveal that you are exporting oil on behalf of Iraq? In other words, you are placing money at Saddam's disposal to purchase missiles and to bomb our cities. You are an accomplice in these crimes and a partner in the killing of our people. Kuwait is a partner in the destruction of our people's homes. It is an accomplice in all these crimes. The Holy Koran says that if someone kills a person or engages in corruption it is as if he has killed everyone. The Hadith says that approving the acts of a group makes one an accomplice. Not only has Kuwait approved all the crimes that Saddam has committed in our country, it also has confirmed them in a way. Kuwait is an accomplice in these crimes. How can we allow Kuwait to continue exporting oil and to place the income at Saddam's disposal? Is this logical? This is not in Kuwait's interests; and if Kuwait wants to continue its hostile acts, we are determined to prevent it. [end recording]

In view of Kuwait's relations with Iran and Iraq which we discussed in yesterday's and today's programs, we now can clearly see how the Kuwaiti shaykhs are swimming against the current by ignoring facts. However, despite all this, the Islamic Republic can — as its actions have proven — forget Kuwait's past mistakes on the condition that Kuwait fully reviews its policy of support for the aggressor. By relying on its pious Armed Forces and having the power to resist and to crush any movement, the Islamic Republic simultaneously considers security and calm as the best factors to preserve the regional countries' interests. Therefore, we repeat that there is still time, but we also suggest that if Kuwait and some other regional countries do not want to join forces with the Islamic Republic in punishing an aggressor

who has threatened them as well, they can at least review their stands.

We hope that regional politicians will display more alertness and intelligence — something that will directly and primarily ensure their own interests, too.

Tehran Cautions U.S., USSR on Pro-Iraqi Stand

LD041408 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 4 May 87

[Station commentary: "No Power Is Capable of Changing the Course of the War"]

[Excerpts] Only a few days after Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's meeting with the Arab League delegation, where he announced his stance, Aleksander Blonogov, the Soviet permanent UN representative, completed his boss's statements. In an interview with *Al-Ittihad*, a newspaper published in the UAE, he talked about the need to find a negotiated settlement for the Iran-Iraq war. In this interview, the Soviet permanent UN representative says that he believes it is now time for the Iran-Iraq war to end. Blonogov adds: The Soviet Union will use its influence over Iran and Iraq to convince them that they should sit at the negotiating table as soon as possible. He also said: Moscow tries to reduce tension in the region because it is in our interests to establish peace in this area, which is near our borders.

If the comments made by the Soviet permanent UN representative are not denied by his bosses — just like his previous comments about the Iran-Iraq war — it will indicate Moscow's continued insistence on its open support for the weakened Iraqi regime. The fact that comments made by Moscow and Washington officials are along the same lines shows that there is a united effort to carry out a joint conspiracy to prevent the Iraqi regime from falling. [passage omitted]

The fact that the Soviet Union can influence the Iraqi regime and that the flood of that country's arms has thus far delayed the fall of the Iraqi regime, is obvious. There is no doubt that the Soviet Union has an influence over organizations, the armed forces, and other power centers in the Ba'thist regime of Iraq and that Iraq is very much dependent upon the Soviet Union for its arms. But, the Soviet Union's problem is that bringing the Iraqi regime to the negotiating table, which is on the verge of defeat, requires no convincing and is the wish of the criminals ruling over Iraq; it is only then that these war criminals can save themselves from certain punishment.

However, the arrogant powers must have realized by now that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not a country where they could wield any influence or bring pressure to bear. The Iranian nation and the regional Muslim nations in recent years have proven that the time has passed when the arrogant powers are able to decide the fate of nations. Those days have gone when war fleet tours by the arrogant powers could put fright into governments and allow the powers to dictate policies.

What befell the U.S. Marines in Beirut can happen to any party and the experience of Lebanon has been a very successful one for the Islamic forces. The East and West have not refrained from providing assistance to the Iraqi regime to this day. Most certainly, if they could they would have changed the course of the war. The problem lies in the fact that neither United States nor the USSR have the power to change the course of the war. Today the war's fate is in the hands of the mighty Islamic combatants. It is they who will write the chronicles for the punishment of the aggressors.

The point made by the USSR representative to the United States — who commented that Moscow was making efforts to lower tensions in the region as it was in its interest to bring peace to the region, lying so close to their borders — leaves a lot of questions in mind. The first question is this: If reducing tension is so important to you, then why do you arm the Iraqi regime to such an extent? Another question is: Was the region not in the grips of a crisis at the time of the Iraqi aggression, and was peace not endangered so close to your borders? Why was it not in the interest of peace to end the war then, but now ending the war, which would preserve the Saddamist regime, is being portrayed as the road to genuine peace and tranquility. Furthermore, the USSR foreign affairs minister [as heard] is stating the the question of who was the instigator of the war is a foregone conclusion. Why is it that after many years since the Nazi aggression in Europe, you are still wandering from door to door seeking out Nazi lackeys to be punished; but, you ask the Iranian nation, in the face of daily crimes and acts of savagery being committed against them, to forego the punishment of the aggressor? Are the crimes of the Iraqi Ba'thists in using chemical weapons less grave than those committed by Hitler and Nazi leaders? Is there any other meaning to the above remarks other than that of open support for the Iraqi regime?

Notwithstanding responses to be delivered by the leaders in Moscow, we hope that they pay more attention to the negative effects of such stands in the public opinion of the region's Muslim nations, particularly the risen nation of Iran. What is definitely clear and is the will of the Muslim nation of Iran, is that there is no end to this war except that of toppling the corrupt Iraqi Ba'th Party. This is the resolute and unshakeable will of the risen people of Iran and none of the arrogant powers have the power to instill doubt in it.

IRNA Reports Foiled Hijacking Attempt 5 May

LD050905 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA — An attempt to hijack an Iran Air passenger plane en route to Tehran from Shiraz, (Fars Prov.) Tuesday morning was foiled by the alertness of the plane's security staff and the would be hijacker was arrested.

An informed source at the Information Ministry told IRNA that the hijacker was one of plane's passengers and is believed to be suffering from mental disorder. The sources rejected any possibility that the hijacker may have had certain motives for his action.

'World Arrogance Agents' Responsible

LD051056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the High Command of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced: On the eve of International Jerusalem Day and to upstage the outstanding victories of the forces of Islam on the western and southern fronts, world arrogance agents and defeated lackeys of Zionism last night intended to hijack a [Boeing] 707 of Islamic Republic Airlines. Thanks to the alertness and timely reaction of the guards corpsmen on board, they were arrested before they did anything.

None of the passengers or crew of the airliner were injured during the arrest and the plane resumed its normal course.

It should be pointed out that the Islamic Republic Airlines 707 left Shiraz for Tehran, flight No 321, at 1820 hours yesterday.

Commanders Brief Khamene'i on War Developments

LD050836 Tehran IRNA in English 0821 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), Brigadier General 'Ali Seyyed-Shirazi met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday after an inspection tour of the Karbala'-10 operational theater.

During the meeting, the president who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council was informed of the latest developments in the region.

Meanwhile, Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Sattari met the president Sunday and reported to him on the current issues of the air force.

Superpower 'Mischiefs' in Gulf Confirm Iraqi Defeats

LD041207 Tehran IRNA in English 1152 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azarbayjan Prov., May 4, IRNA — Superpower mischiefs in the Persian Gulf confirm the shameless defeats the Iraqi Ba'thist forces recently suffered at the hands of the Muslim combatants of Iran, said Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps [IRGC] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Eraghi, here Monday.

He said that Iranian nation achieved great victories in the Iraqi-imposed war due to the Muslim combatants' devotion, to the extent that the world does not relish the thought of confronting them.

Iran's enemies, he said, dreamt of bending the iron will and high morale of the Islamic Republic of Iran and prevent its victories by involving superpowers in the region.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Eraghi added that for the first time in the past few decades the U.S. and the USSR are jointly expressing concern for peace and free navigation in the region, because they fear the imminent expansion of the Islamic revolution.

Velayati Pledges 'Full Support' to Frontline States

LD041247 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Tehran, 4 May, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati strongly condemned the recent attack of the South African apartheid regime on Zambia, in messages to his Zimbabwean, Mozambican, Angolan, Tanzanian, Zambian and Botswana counterparts on Monday.

In his messages, the foreign minister expressed hope that solidarity among the African Frontline States would effectively counter and neutralize such "inhuman" acts of the racist Pretoria regime.

Velayati also pledged Iran's full support for the Frontline States and the Namibian people in confronting the threats of the illegal regime in Pretoria. He expressed hope that the apartheid regime would soon be toppled so that the regional people could live in peace and tranquility.

Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani Hospitalized in London

LD050642 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] London, May 5, IRNA — Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Golpayegani who is suffering from gall bladder problems was hospitalized at the Cromwell Hospital, here Monday.

Ayatollah Golpayegani's son, who is accompanying him, is quoted as saying that the ayatollah's general condition has greatly improved and it is believed that his illness might be cured medically without the need of any operations. The Ayatollah arrived here on Sunday.

Larijani Comments on Group-77 Conference in Havana

NC041233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Our deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs, who went to Havana to attend the Group-77 conference, spoke about the outcome of his trip yesterday afternoon. He said: Group-77 consists of 166 [as heard] Third World countries and is one of the main groups of UNCTAD, which was formed in 1964 to solve the acute economic problems of Third World countries. Its programs were originally based on cooperation and mutual agreement between developed countries and the Third World. Actually, this cooperation has been replaced with begging by the developing countries from the developed countries.

Discussing the Islamic Republic's stand on this, he said: During this meeting the Iranian delegation presented its opinion, which advocates fair cooperation among countries.

On the question of debts and repayment of loans made to the Third World, he stated: Such loans have never had positive

economic effects on the countries receiving them, and those extending them should share the losses and profits of these loans. [sentence as heard]

Report on 'Boost' in Non-Oil Exports Released

LD040959 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA — Non-oil exports during the five years period ending March 1987, totaled 1,872,000 tons, and were worth 199.836 billion rials, (2.35 billion dlrs. according to the average rate of 85 rls per dlr. in the past five years), said a custom report released here Monday.

Agricultural items topped the export list during the same period, accounting for 36.7 percent of the exports in terms of weight and 32.2 percent in terms of value.

The next item on the list in terms of value here hand woven Persian carpets which made up 29.3 of the exports, followed by textiles 10.9 percent, minerals 5.9 percent and caviar 4.16.

As for the non-oil exports during the past Iranian year. (ended March 20), the report said that 646,000 tons of good worth 6.767 billion rials, (900 m dlrs.) were exported, up by 22 percent in terms of weight and 64 percent in terms of value, compared to the year before.

The significant boost in non-oil exports during the last year, was due to the new facilities for export of carpets, coupled with the increase in export of agricultural produce. Carpet exports last year more than doubled their preceding year's figures.

Carpet exports last year amounted to 8,163 tons and were worth 352,707 thousand dollars, the highest in the past five years.

Industries Director on Exports

LD041002 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — Units under the administration of the Iran National Industries Organization exported some nine million [figure as received] dollars of products in the past Iranian year (ended March 20), said the organization's managing director, Hoseyn Mahru, here Sunday.

He said that despite foreign exchange bottlenecks products of the pharmaceutical group of the organization increased by 12 percent during the said period compared to the preceding year.

Mahru added that the textile mills group with 1.3 billion dollars worth of products and the foodstuffs industries group with 1.2 billion dollars filled the first and second places on the organization's production list.

On export activities, Mahru said that plans were underway to boost Iran's non-oil exports through further participation in international trade fairs.

Stressing that the Persian Gulf countries were the most suitable market for Iranian exports, Mahru said that in the past year over 1.5 million dollars of goods were exported to the United Arab Emirates by units under his organization. Cement, carpet, textiles, canned food and fruits, pistachioes, chocolates and biscuits, vegetable shortenings and detergents were main export items of the organization.

On the returning back of some industrial units to their owners who had fled abroad after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Mahru said that factories whose owners had connections with the former regime or had committed treason and crime, had been confiscated for the benefit of the oppressed and would not be returned to them.

But, he added, factories whose owners had been out of the country after the revolution and had not committed any crime, could be returned to them.

So far, some nine factories out of the 500 units under the administration of the organization, had been returned to their owners, he concluded.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,826

LD041532 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA — Iran's Navy Sunday released a cargo ship it had intercepted and escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection Friday after being satisfied that there was no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard it, said a military communique here Monday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2826 said that at least 35 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one enemy tank, two vehicles, one mortar launcher and several bunkers and observation posts were destroyed in the southern fronts Sunday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying seven bunkers and observation posts of theirs.

Two Iraqi patrol units attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Mehran, western fronts, Sunday were forced to flee under heavy Iranian artillery fire. In Sumar and Chessan [name as received] movement of enemy vehicle columns were checked.

In the northwestern fronts Sunday, Iranian Muslim combatants despatched several patrol convoys one of which seized a rocket propelled grenade launcher (RPG 7), a communication set upon return from its mission. One tank and several gun emplacements of Iraqi troops were destroyed in a northwestern front Sunday by artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire silenced Iraqi tank fire and halted activities of enemy tanks in Nahr 'Anbar, southern fronts, Sunday. Elsewhere, in Sharhani and Zobeydah, enemy troops sus-

tained several casualties when shelled by Muslim forces of Iran, the communique concluded.

Naval Vessels Clash

LD051057 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] The High Command of the Triple Forces of the Guards Corps announces:

Last night, a number of vessels belonging to the 7th Naval Division of Iraq stationed in Khowr 'Abdallah which intended to get closer to the positions of the forces of Islam, became involved in a combat with patrol commandos of the naval forces of the Guards Corps and fled before carrying out their operation.

One of the vessels sustained major damage on the way back.

Accurate fire of the coastal artillery of the naval forces of the Guards Corps on Al-Ummayah, inflicted damage on two frigates berthed along the jetty.